

U.S. targets Jordan, King Hussein

by Joseph Brewda

A U.S. campaign against Jordan was renewed on Dec. 22 when a CBS "Sixty Minutes" broadcast claimed that King Hussein was cooperating in Iraqi "sanctions busting." "If you close Jordan, you will reduce Saddam Hussein's chances of survival drastically," special guest Ahmed Chalabi said. "They permit Iraq to receive various contraband . . . from North Korea, Libya, Cuba." The Jordanian king, he claimed, was getting a juicy cut. "King Hussein made a lot of money through Saddam Hussein," he said.

A fugitive Jordanian banker of Iraqi ancestry charged by Jordanian authorities with embezzlement and fraud, Chalabi has his own axe to grind, as even "Sixty Minutes" indicated. It failed to report, however, that Chalabi is a leader of the State Department-run, Saudi-funded "Iraqi opposition." One week after the broadcast, some 17 of these opposition groups met in Damascus, Syria, while the U.S. press reported that the Pentagon was considering installing this opposition coalition as the puppet government of Iraq.

Backing up Chalabi's reliability on the broadcast was one Jules "Julie" Kroll, the head of Kroll Associates, a New York detective firm hired by the Kuwaiti government to track Iraq's assets and monitor the enforcement of the sanctions. Kroll praised Chalabi as "extraordinarily gifted" in finance and "credible," and concurred that one must first go to Jordan to negotiate a deal with Iraq.

Kroll was joined by Peter Galbraith, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hand who has long advocated that Third World states, especially Arab states, be denied advanced technology of any sort, since such technology could be used in making weapons. Galbraith had been warmly praised at an August conference of the Iraqi opposition in Virginia, which Chalabi chaired.

Last March, Kroll had appeared on "Sixty Minutes," claiming that Iraq had "billions of dollars" in secret assets, and secret deals with German weapons manufacturers. Already at that time, Washington journalists say, Kroll, ABC's "Nightline," the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *London Financial Times* had put together an informal task force targeting the "Iraq network" and related subjects of interest to the newly formed CIA Fifth Directorate, the Agency's economic warfare branch. The same propaganda task force has also

specialized in stories on the BCCI fraud case (Bank of Credit and Commerce International), a bank often used by U.S. intelligence. More recently, the group has attempted to put a cap on the "October Surprise" story—the story that Reagan and Bush tried to fix the 1980 election by their secret dealings with Iran.

Why Kroll?

Kroll Associates was formed in the 1970s as specialists in "white-collar crime," following Kroll's training in the Justice Department. One of its first major clients was David Shauli, the Israeli mafia figure whose whorehouses in Frankfurt, Germany have reportedly been of some use to the Mossad. Another early major client was the New York law firm of Willkie, Farr and Gallagher, then headed by Kenneth J. Bialkin. Bialkin, the attorney for drug-runner Robert Vesco, was at the time the chairman of the Anti-Defamation League, America's most powerful Zionist organization, and it was through Bialkin that Kroll began work for the ADL's legal department. The ADL's legal department was then staffed by Ruth Sella, the wife of Col. Aviem Sella, the Mossad official who ran Jonathan Pollard. U.S. Naval Intelligence official Pollard's espionage for Israel involved, in part, stealing U.S. documents on Iraq, among other Arab states.

Since establishing such ties, Kroll has expanded operations throughout the world, doing investigations for large corporations based in Europe and Asia, as well as securing contracts with government agencies, such as the U.S. Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control. The firm reports that its expertise is in electronic and computer-related intelligence; its some 200 employees are drawn from among former officers of British SAS, MI-5, U.K. Customs, CIA, FBI, and the U.S. Justice Department.

Kroll's partners include:

- William Kish: director of operations at the firm, a 28-year FBI veteran with long assignments at the U.S. embassies in Stockholm, London, Copenhagen, and Helsinki.
- Joe Rosetti: managing director and, earlier, the long-time head of IBM corporate security.
- Brian Jenkins: RAND Corporation specialist on terrorism who had been an important "back channel" between the CIA and KGB.
- Patrick Grayson: head of Kroll's London office, formerly with the British Army in the Mideast.
- Michael Oatley: London office director of operations, formerly of the British Foreign Office.
- Michael Comer: former head of Exxon-Europe security.
- Arish Turtle: head of Kroll's Hong Kong operations, former head of "Control Risks," and retired Special Air Services Major.

Kroll's London office is said to be the one that was once used by the late chief of British MI-5 intelligence, Sir Maurice Oldfield.